



*A place where families and businesses thrive.*

**City Council & Parks and Recreation Commission  
Joint Work Session Minutes  
Forest Grove Eastside Park Needs Study**

**Monday, July 13, 2020  
6:00 p.m., Community Auditorium**

***Minutes are unofficial until approved by Council.  
Council approved minutes as presented September 14, 2020.***

**1. ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Peter Truax called the Work Session to order at 6:15 p.m. via Webex Video Conference.

**COVID-19:** Due to the emergency declaration resulting from COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease) and protocols, the **City Council conducted the Work Session remotely by video conferencing.** The meeting was remotely video conferenced by City Recorder Ruggles at the Community Auditorium.

**ROLL CALL: COUNCIL PRESENT ATTENDED BY WEBEX REMOTELY:** Kristy Kottkey; Timothy Rippe; Elena Uhing; Mariana Valenzuela; Adolph “Val” Valfre; Malynda Wenzl, Council President; and Mayor Peter Truax.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS:** Brad Bafaro; Ralph Brown (present in the conference room); Kenneth Cobleigh; Mackenzie Johnston-Carey (Webex remotely); Howard Sullivan (Webex remotely); Susan Taylor (Webex remotely); Glenn VanBlarcom; and Paul Waterstreet, Chair (Webex remotely).

**STAFF PRESENT ATTENDED BY WEBEX REMOTELY:** Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager (Webex remotely); Tom Gamble, Parks and Recreation Director (in the conference room); and Anna Ruggles, City Recorder (in the Community Auditorium).

**2. COUNCIL AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (P&R) JOINT WORK SESSION: FOREST GROVE EASTSIDE PARK NEEDS STUDY**

Gamble and VanderZanden facilitated the above-noted work session, noting the purpose of the work session was to address Council Goal 7: Expand Recreational Opportunities, Objective 7.4 Partner to study Eastside Park. Gamble gave an overview of the Parks and Recreation Core Values, Vision, Mission, Goals and Strategies as outlined in the Appendix. Gamble reported the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was adopted in November 2018, and is the foundational document for future park development within Forest Grove, and the Eastside Park Needs Study was a follow-up to the Master Plan. Gamble noted the Master Plan identified a lack of public park facilities in eastern Forest Grove, defined as the residential area between Highway 47 east to the

city limit line with Cornelius and south of Fernhill Elementary School. Gamble introduced Charles Brucker and Jocelyn Bates, PLACE Consultants, who gave an introduction overview and presented a PowerPoint presentation of the results of the Forest Grove Eastside Park Needs Study and referenced maps pertaining to residential + green space; barriers; walkability; walkability + residential; park + school public amenities; possible new park sites; and who would be served, noting the total population in the proposed area is approximately 1,995 residents. Gamble advised the study identified seven possible new park sites and a recommendation of three potential site options for collaborative partnerships for consideration: Site 1, Rose Grove Mobile Home Park (share greenspace, public-private partnership); Site 6, City of Forest Grove De-Watering Site (large city-owned property with 22<sup>nd</sup> Street access for residents in Forest Grove and Cornelius, and next to the abandoned railroad track right-of-way (future regional trail); and Site 7, Fernhill Elementary School (add public use playground, discuss with school district).

**Council Discussion:**

Mayor Truax opened the floor and roundtable discussion ensued as Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and staff discussed the seven possible new park sites and the three potential site options. Gamble and the consultants responded to various inquiries pertaining to the potential sites, such as lot size, partnerships, access points, public improvements, maintenance and demographics and obstacles and referenced the meeting notes with the Forest Grove School District, Clean Water Services and City of Cornelius as outlined in the Appendix, noting the study establishes 15 minutes as a maximum distance that residents can comfortably walk to reach a park or school green open space. In conclusion of the above-noted roundtable discussion, Council and P&R jointly concurred to conduct further study of Site 6, City of Forest Grove De-Watering Site, and asked staff to identify challenges and opportunities and report back findings.

Council took no formal action nor made any formal decisions during the work session.

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Truax adjourned the work session at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Anna D. Ruggles, CMC, City Recorder